

MINUTES

OF THE

SIXTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

BETHLEHEM

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH,

MONROE COUNTY, ALABAMA,

September 29, 30 and 31, 1884.

OFFICERS:

ELDER B. J. SKINNER.....Moderator.....Burnt Corn, Ala.
THOS. S. WIGGINS.....Clerk.....Monroeville, Ala.
C. S. RABB.....Treasurer.....Evergreen, Ala.

SEI MA, ALA.:

FROM THE PRESS OF THE SELMA PRINTING COMPANY.

1884.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Appoint Committee to Read Letters.
2. Names of Delegates enrolled.
3. Election of Officers.
4. Appoint Committee on Preaching.
5. Recognize Messengers from Corresponding Bodies.
6. Invitation to Ministers of the Gospel present, not accredited to the body,
to seats with us.
8. Appointment of Committees to report during the session.
9. Report of Committees appointed at the last session.
10. Appointment of Committee to report at the next session.
11. Report of Committee of the present session.
12. Motions and Resolutions.
13. Miscellaneous business.
14. Appoint time and place of next meeting.
15. Treasurer's Report.
16. Disbursement of funds on hand.

MINUTES.

The Sixty-eighth Annual Session of the Bethlehem Baptist Association was held with the Bethany Church, Monroe county, Alabama, beginning on Saturday, September 29th, 1884.

The introductory sermon was preached by Elder B. H. Crumpton at 11 o'clock A. M. Subject: "Witnessing for Jesus."

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At 2 o'clock P. M. the Association was called to order by the Moderator, Elder B. J. Skinner, when the letters from the churches were read and the delegates enrolled.

The following churches were represented by delegates as follows:

FIRST DISTRICT.

Philadelphia—W. T. Nettles, J. G. Wiggins, W. H. Fountain, Jno. Newberry.

Pleasant Ridge—S. Buford, J. L. Smith, Geo. Roley, N. Waters.

Claiborne—R. I. Draughon, Jno. Thames, Jno. M. Thompson.

Monroeville—J. W. Leslie, Thos. S. Wiggins, Jno. DeLoach, L. R. Wiggins.

Poplar Springs—Wm. A. House, P. T. Taylor.

Ramah—T. H. Evans, J. B. Evans.

Zion—John McWilliams, W. A. Locke, W. A. Fountain, W. L. Rikard.

Olive Branch—J. D. Platt, F. M. Hasson.

Salem—A. King, L. A. Hendrix, J. M. Brown, E. H. Atkinson.

Hamilton Hill—Charlie Hixon.

Pleasant Hill—Monroe Stacey.

Enon—Jas. M. Gallaspie, J. H. Lee.

SECOND DISTRICT.

Pilgrims Rest—E. P. Lovelace, E. M. Lovelace.

Bethany—B. J. Skinner, B. Shirley, J. P. Watkins.

Brownsville—B. W. Grice, Z. T. James.

Bellville—P. Straughn, T. A. Robbins, J. Straughn, J. Stamps, W. J. Dunklin.

Fairfield—W. H. Andrews, J. H. Salter, W. W. Johnson, L. W. Prantley.

Arkadelphia—I. Hines, A. H. Stokes, S. L. Stokes, J. W. Higdon, Jefferson Ellis.

THIRD DISTRICT.

Old Town—I. Spence, J. H. Kelly, J. J. Spence.
 Midway—R. H. Gentry, W. H. Stacey, John Hardee, J. J. Pipkins.
 Georgiana—E. Milner.
 Evergreen—J. T. Fincher, G. R. Farnham, B. H. Crumpton, V. M. Rabb,
 C. S. Rabb.
 New Prospect—J. D. Bryan, G. H. Bryan, H. F. Gamble.
 Long Branch—G. W. Huggins, E. P. Mathews.
 Bethesda—J. L. Eddins, Walter Seal, Johnson Sager.
 New Hope—T. N. Piggott.
 Union—L. Garner, M. A. Ray, F. M. Edeker.
 Mars' Hill—A. Boon, Origen Boon.
 Antioch—A. J. Stanford, Wm. Waters.
 Brooklyn—L. A. White, C. A. Thames, P. P. Powell.
 Oak Grove—Platt Rawls, Joseph Hanks.
 Pensacola—Letter, no delegates.

The following officers were then elected, to-wit: Elder B. J. Skinner, Moderator; C. S. Rabb, Treasurer; Thos. S. Wiggins, Clerk.

The Moderator appointed the following committee on preaching, viz: The pastor and deacons of Bethany Church, and Y. M. Rabb, J. W. Leslie and Jno. P. Watkins.

The following visiting brethren were recognized and invited to seats with the body, to-wit:

From the Pine Barren Association—Dr. D. W. Ramsey, brethren A. A. Sims, J. F. Fore, Wm. Cater, Wm. Address, Johnathan Anderson and James Owen.

Elder L. W. Duke, from the General Association of Texas.

Elder B. F. Riley, as representative of the State Mission Board and the *Alabama Baptist*.

All ministers of the Association present were also invited to seats with the body.

On motion, the newly constituted church, Oak Grove, was received into the Association.

REPORT ON PREACHING.

The Committee on Preaching made their report as follows:

At the stand on to-morrow, Sabbath, at 11 o'clock A. M., Elder L. W. Duke; and same hour at the church, Dr. D. W. Ramsey. At the stand in the afternoon, Elder I. A. White, and at the church, Elder B. F. Riley.

The following committees were appointed, viz:

On Finance—G. R. Farnham, C. A. Thames and J. Straughn.

On State of Religion—J. H. Higdon, W. T. Nettles and J. H. Raines.

On Querries and Requests—W. A. Locke, John Newberry and J. T. Fincher.

On Ministerial Education—Y. M. Rabb, J. W. Leslie and E. P. Lovelace.

The report of the standing committee on Missions, was read and on motion was laid over for further consideration till 11 o'clock A. M. Monday.

The Chairman of the Committee on Sabbath Schools asked for further time to report and that G. R. Farnham be added to the committee, which was granted.

The Committee on Temperance also asked for further time to report, which was granted.

The Association then adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock A. M. on Monday.

MONDAY.

9 O'CLOCK A. M.

The session met again, and after religious exercises proceeded to the following business :

On a motion to receive as a delegate from an unrepresented church, a visiting brother from that church, though not delegated, objection was made, and considerable discussion arose, resulting in the decision not to receive any one as a delegate not duly accredited.

The report on Sunday Schools was read and discussed by brethren Y. M. Rabb, E. P. Lovelace, and B. F. Riley.

The hour having arrived for resuming the consideration of the Report on Missions, the regular order was, on motion, suspended in order that the report now pending might be disposed of. It was then further discussed by G. R. Farnham and adopted, and is as follows :

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Your Committee on Sunday Schools make the following report .

From the best information we can obtain from brethren connected with this work in the County, District and State Conventions, we believe there is a gratifying progress both as to numbers and character of the work throughout the bounds of this Association. We are embarrassed in not being able to give accurate statistics, so as to show the exact progress and needs of the work in different localities, which fact is due to our lack of a systematic method of gathering statistics. We are free to say that there is more activity and better results shown by schools which have become identified with the conventional work than by those which have never done so. The reason is at once apparent to every observant mind and especially to every experienced worker in this important field of Christian labor. The frequent meeting together, discussion of plans and methods, comparison of results and interchange of ideas, serve as a powerful stimulus to increase zeal and better fit those engaged in the work for more efficient labor, to say nothing of the effect upon the careless and indifferent.

We, therefore, make the following suggestions and recommendations :

1. That this Association at this meeting appoint a statistical secretary for the Sunday Schools within its bounds, whose duty it shall be to gather full statistics from all the schools and make his report at each meeting of this body.
2. That the Sunday Schools within the bounds of this Association ally themselves at once with the County, District and State Conventions, and also the International Convention.
3. That the reports of Sunday School work, made to the Association, be made to show accurately the number of officers, teachers and pupils, also the kind of literature used, the amounts contributed to benevolent and other objects, and especially the number of conversions.

4. That pastors of the respective churches urge the entire membership of their churches to engage in the study of God's word every Lord's day and have a more careful supervision of the literature used, the methods of preparation and teaching, and, above all, the special fitness and qualifications of officers and teachers.

5. That this Association give more time for the consideration of this work and appoint at each meeting competent speakers to discuss the most important features of it at the next meeting of this body, or, if not convenient to do this, appoint a committee of three whose duty it shall be to select subjects and speakers at least three months before the time set for the next meeting of the Association, that said committee be one of the standing committees of this body and be composed of members who are thoroughly alive to this work.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

I. A. WHITE, Chairman.
 Y. M. RABB,
 B. SHIRLEY,
 J. E. DEER,
 S. W. JONES,
 G. R. FARNHAM.
 Committee.

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

The report on Missions was taken up, and, after discussion by Brethren B. H. Crumpton, B. F. Riley and L. W. Duke, was adopted, as follows:

The scripturalness, necessity and increasing interest in this glorious enterprise of the world's evangelization, are so patent as to require but few words for their enforcement upon our minds and hearts. "The field is the world." It is but too obvious that the word "world" is the nucleus of Christian organization, and stimulus to aggressive Christian enterprise. The commission of our ascended Lord to His disciples, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," must be expunged from the gospel before any of us ought dare to even question the obligation to send and support the gospel, to every spot where there is known destitution.

For system and convenience only, the work has been divided into what is now termed Foreign, Home and State Missions; the first under the secretaryship of Dr. H. A. Tupper, of Richmond, Va.; the second, Dr. I. T. Tichenor, of Atlanta, Ga.; and the third, Dr. T. M. Bailey, of Marion, Ala., whose name is now almost a household word in our State.

For any information desired in regard to the Foreign and Home work, we would refer you to and recommend a liberal patronage of the *Foreign Mission Journal*, and one or more of our religious papers. For any measure of personal duty toward these enterprises desired, we refer you to God's word.

The State work being so nearly allied to both the above mentioned agencies and local associational effort, claims our most special attention. We desire to say, in regard to the State Board, that, according to the assurance of Elder W. G. Curry, representative of said Board at our last Association, and the spirit of a resolution adopted by the last session of this body, found on page 5 of last minutes, they have put forth their most earnest endeavors, and accomplished modifications and improvements which address themselves to our cordial sympathy and support. They now have under advisement the practicability of appointing at least one, perhaps more, general evangelist to operate in districts of the State according to circumstances; to assist pastors in meetings when deemed proper; to search out and build up weak interests where needed, and which cannot be reached by associational labors; to advertise our colleges and promote the interests generally fostered by our Convention.

They have also requested the Associations to appoint an executive committee to consider the immediate necessities of the local field and communicate with the Board, so there may be no friction. The Board has also been increased and one more brother, Elder B. F. Riley, placed upon it from South Alabama.

Your Committee most heartily endorse these omens for good, and commend them most warmly to your endorsement and support.

The associational work is of vast importance, and should be apprehended as early as possible and pressed as vigorously as means will allow. There are now several organized churches pastorless, and unable to procure supply without aid. There are other points which ought to and must be nursed, where efficient churches can be organized. The best plan or arrangement by which these felt wants can be discovered and supplied is the appointment of an associational executive committee, to be empowered to pursue the most practical and effective course which their wisdom and piety may dictate; therefore,

Resolved, That a committee of three brethren, one from each district of the Association, be appointed by the chair to select seven discreet brethren, three from the locality where their meetings may be held and two from each of the other districts.

Respectfully submitted,

B. H. CRUMPTON, Chairman.

The following committee was appointed to select the executive committee named in the foregoing report, viz: J. W. Leslie, P. Straughn and J. T. Fincher; who reported the following as the

ASSOCIATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

G. R. Farnham, Y. M. Rabb, W. H. Herrington, W. T. Nettles, E. P. Lovelace, J. W. Leslie, P. Straughn.

The following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the Bethlehem Association most heartily recommends Rev. B. H. Crumpton to the State Mission Board, as eminently fitted for the position of General Evangelist in the State.

TEMPERANCE REPORT.

The Committee on Temperance submitted their report, which, after discussion by Brethren J. M. Thompson, E. P. Lovelace and B. F. Riley, was adopted, viz.:

We note with satisfaction that the temperance question is still being agitated, that many counties in the State are free from the whiskey traffic with its long train of evils, and that within the past twelve months a stricter construction has been placed on the prohibition law. We sympathize with those counties in our State which have made unsuccessful attempts to secure the benefits of prohibitory law, and we trust they will keep trying until success shall crown their efforts, and that they, too, may be freed from the disgraceful scenes which occur where intoxicating liquors are now sold by the drink.

We believe that retail saloons and social drinking are the causes of nine-tenths of the drunkenness in our land, and we here most respectfully urge our Baptist brethren everywhere to keep clear of drinking saloons, and on no account to take a social drink; and we ask the ladies to set their faces against these evils in society. We hear with pleasure of some temperance organizations which have sprung up in the bounds of our Association, and we bid them God speed.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN M. THOMPSON, Chairman.

COMMITTEES APPOINTED.

The following committees were appointed, to report at the next session, to wit:

On Missions—W. A. Locke, W. T. Nettles, C. S. Rabb, E. P. Lovelace, E. Milner, John DeLoach and I. Hines.

On Temperance—I. Spence, W. H. Stacey, L. W. Brantley, E. P. Mathews, Y. M. Rabb, F. M. Hasson and E. H. Atkinson.

On Sunday Schools—G. R. Farnham, J. W. Leslie, J. L. Hurry, J. B. Platt, Jas. Straughn, Z. T. James and R. I. Draughon.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the foregoing Committee on Sunday Schools constitute also the committee named in the Sunday School report.

 REPORT ON GROVE DALE CHURCH.

The committee heretofore appointed on Grove Dale Church, reported as follows:

Your Committee, which was charged with the duty of visiting the Grove Dale Church, under the pastorate of Elder J. D. Beck, and which applied to this body at its last session for admission to membership, to ascertain whether or not this church was a regular and scriptural organization and thus entitled to membership in this body, begs leave to report, that failing to do this work last November, as was designed and ordered by the last session of this body, on account of yellow fever, and from similar reasons failing to visit them at any subsequent time, it is ready, from documents received from Brother Beck himself, now to report that the church is irregular, the spirit manifested toward the Association not good, and their petition for membership in this body ought not to be and cannot be accepted.

Respectfully submitted,

B. H. CRUMPTON,

J. W. LESLIE.

Report adopted.

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The report of the Finance Committee was presented and adopted, as follows:

	CHURCHES.	State Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Home Missions.	Indigent Ministers.	Ministerial Education.	Minutes.
FIRST DISTRICT.	Claiborne	\$ 13 50	.....	\$ 1 00	\$ 2 55	.....	\$ 2 00
	Enon	5 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 10
	Salem .....	.....	.....	2 10	.....	.....	2 50
	Pleasant Hill.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	75
	Pleasant Ridge .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2 05
	Poplar Springs	1 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Philadelphia	25 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	2 00
	Monroeville.....	15 00	5 00	5 00	.....	.....	2 00
	Montgomery Hill.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Hamilton Hill.....	10 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	50
SECOND DISTRICT.	Zion.....	.....	18 75	.....	.....	.....	2 00
	Grove Dale .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 85
	Arkadelphia	3 40	.....	.....	.....	.....	2 40
	Bellville	4 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 25
	Catawba Springs.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Pilgrim's Rest.....	10 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 00
	Bethany	14 90	.....	.....	.....	.....	2 00
	Olive Branch.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 25
	Ramah .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 10
	Fairfield.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 20
THIRD DISTRICT.	Mars' Hill.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 00
	Castleberry	Voucher.	.....	.....	.....	.....	50
	Brownsville	Voucher.	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 00
	Pensacola.....	.....	.....	3 00	.....	.....	2 00
	Antioch	1 00	75	.....	.....	.....	1 50
	Brooklyn	3 75	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 50
	New Hope	11 35	.....	.....	.....	.....	2 00
	Brushy Creek .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Long Branch.....	Voucher.	.....	.....	.....	.....	75
	Georgiana	Voucher.	Vr.	Vr.	.....	2 50	1 75
THIRD DISTRICT.	Sepulga .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Old Town.....	2 00	75	1 00	.....	.....	1 00
	Midway	2 00	1 00	.....	.....	.....	2 00
	New Prospect.....	5 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 50
	Union	3 10	.....	.....	.....	.....	75
	Bethesda .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 50
	Evergreen	13 90	.....	.....	.....	.....	4 00
	Beulah	1 75	.....	.....	.....	.....	50
	Bethel	75	.....	.....	.....	.....	45
	Total cash		\$ 171 05	\$26 25	\$12 10	\$ 2 55	\$ 2 50	$52 65
Vouchers		34 05	3 00	3 55	.....	.....	.....

A. Travis, P. C. Fund, voucher, \$5.00; cash, \$10.00. Evergreen Church, Building Committee Fund, \$75.00.

G. R. FARNHAM, Chairman.

STATE OF RELIGION.

Your Committee on the state of religion beg to report :

From the reading of the letters, we find that some of the churches have enjoyed great revivals; also a great increase in the Sabbath School work. We are sorry to say that there has been some decrease in contributions to missions, and your Committee urge that we, as a body, come up more liberally in support of our Master's work.

Respectfully submitted,

W. T. NETTLES.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

C. S. RABB, Treasurer,

In account with the Bethlehem Baptist Association.

DR.

To amount cash from Finance Committee.....	\$277 10
vouchers from Finance Committee.	120 60
	<hr/>
	\$397 70

CR.

By amount cash to State Mission Board.....	\$171 05
Clerk for Minutes.....	52 65
vouchers.....	130 60
balance on hand.....	43 40
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	\$397 70

The balance to be applied as follows :

To Foreign Missions.....	\$26 25
To Home Missions.....	12 10
To Ministerial Education.....	2 50
To Indigent Ministers fund.....	2 55
	<hr/>
	\$43 40

C. S. RABB, Treasurer.

ON QUERIES AND REQUESTS.

Your Committee report that they find only one request and that from the Brooklyn Church, requesting that the next session of this body be held with them, which we recommend.

W. A. LOCKE.

ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

Your Committee on Ministerial Education make the following report :

For two years past the matter of Ministerial Education has received unusual attention at the hands of the Baptist State Convention of Alabama. After the agitation of the question before two State Conventions, it has at length assumed practical shape. A Board has been created and located at Birmingham, which is empowered to raise funds to aid such young brethren as desire to be better qualified for preaching. This board has gone grandly to work. A mess hall has been established at Marion for theological students, and will be conducted upon the most economical principles. Only board and books will be furnished the students. After the use of the books for a session, they will be returned to the student's library to be used by the class next succeeding. Thus they become a stock of permanent value. Funds contributed, however, will not be restricted in their use to Howard College. A young man will be aided in his

course at any denominational school where, in the discretion of the Board, he should be. A magnificent opportunity is thus afforded the Baptists of the State, to equip their ministry with more efficiency for the solemn work of preaching the gospel.

Y. M. RABB.

A committee was appointed to prepare suitable resolutions on the death of Dr. A. J. Robinson, viz : E. P. Lovelace, I. Spence and I. A. White.

The following resolutions were adopted :

Whereas, The time for the transaction of business in this Association is necessarily short ; and,

Whereas, Much time of the first day of the meeting is consumed by the reading of the letters and the preaching of the introductory sermon ; therefore,

Resolved, That hereafter the letters be referred to a committee of three, immediately upon assembling, and while the Association engage in devotional exercises for a half hour, time be given the committee to report the delegates for organization.

Resolved, That some brother be appointed to preach a missionary sermon on Sunday, in lieu of the introductory sermon.

Resolved, That we continue in unabated loyalty to the organ of the Baptist denomination in the State, the *Alabama Baptist*. We still regard it as great a necessity as ever and urge that it be introduced into every Baptist family in this Association.

A motion was adopted providing for the appointment of a committee of three to select a minister to preach a missionary sermon on Sunday of the next session of this body. Also to select a Sunday School statistical secretary.

Committees were also appointed to report

On Denominational Literature—John P. Watkins, W. J. Dunklin, E. M. Lovelace.

On Denominational Education—B. H. Crumpton, W. H. Fountain, I. A. White.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association be tendered to the brethren, friends, and especially the ladies of this church and community, for their unfeigned hospitality during the session of this body.

The committee appointed to select a preacher to preach the missionary sermon at the next session, report that they have selected Elder B. J. Skinner for that purpose. Also that they have selected C. S. Rabb as Sunday School statistical secretary.

Resolved, That we have heard with pleasure the statement of our brother Draughon in regard to a memorial work, and commend his enterprise to a favorable consideration of the Baptist brotherhood throughout the Association.

Adopted.

Elder I. Spence submitted a report, which was adopted, viz.:

Having been appointed on a committee to raise a fund for the erection of a tombstone at the grave of Brother P. H. Lundy, who fell a victim to the yellow fever scourge at Pensacola, I have made an effort to do so, and have raised \$12.85. Fifty dollars will be required for this purpose.

I. SPENCE.

On motion, Brother Spence was requested to continue his efforts, retaining the amount in his hands, till the requisite amount should be raised.

On motion, the time of holding the next annual session of this Association be changed to Saturday before the fourth Sunday in October, instead of September, as heretofore.

On motion, the Clerk was allowed \$15.00 for his services in preparing and having the minutes printed, and was also instructed to have the Constitution and Rules of Order of this Association printed with the minutes. Also, blank letters from the churches to the Association.

CORRESPONDENTS APPOINTED.

The following correspondents were appointed, to wit :

To the State Convention—B. H. Crumpton, I. A. White, G. R. Farnham and C. S. Rabb.

To Pine Barren Association—B. H. Crumpton, B. J. Skinner, J. W. Leslie, Y. M. Rabb and I. Spence.

To Elim Association—Y. M. Rabb.

To Zion Association—Elder J. G. McCaskey, and any other member that may attend.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE.

Among the deaths of valued servants of God during the past year has occurred one which justifies some notice, however brief, in the records of the Bethlehem Baptist Association.

God has been pleased to remove from the sphere of earthly service Dr. A. J. Robinson, of Brooklyn, Conecuh county. The story of his youth and early manhood is an "oft told tale;" a struggle with poverty, a warfare with adverse circumstances. He was born and reared in Stewart county, Ga. There, also, he was married; and shortly afterward, "gathering all together," he removed to Conecuh county, Ala., the place that gave him a home in life, and to his remains a resting place in death.

Dr. Robinson was a man of superior mental gifts, and of those higher moral mind qualities which, when seen in men of his position, render their characters peculiarly attractive. Possessing naturally a logical turn of mind, he was a most formidable opponent in debate. He never "jumped at conclusions," but when conviction was reached, he boldly defined his position and was as immovable as the hills. But, withal, so friendly and courteous in debate was he, that his opponent was invariably robbed of the sting of defeat. The cause of temperance received his most ardent support, and education felt his fostering care.

His loving family and friends—and, oh, how they loved him!—watched as he entered the shadows, and, lo! 'tis heavenly sunshine. The gloom and the clouds flee before the face of the morning—endless day!

Dr. Robinson passed away in full strength, and neither he nor his admiring friends thought at the last session of this body that the last time had come for the use of his cultured powers in behalf of the cause he loved.

I. A. WHITE,
E. P. LOYLLACE,
I. SPENCE.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Association adjourned to meet with the Brooklyn Church, in Conecuh county, on Saturday before the fourth Sabbath in October, 1885, at 10 o'clock A. M.

B. J. SKINNER, Moderator.

THOS. S. WIGGINS, Clerk.

 CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union, who, on producing their credentials, shall be entitled to seats.

ART. II. The members thus chosen and convened shall be known by the name of the "Bethlehem Baptist Association," who shall usurp no authority over the churches in our union, or intrude on any of their internal rights, but shall be merely an advisory council in all matters relative to their internal concerns. It, nevertheless, claims authority over its own members, the delegates of the churches, and in justice and propriety must have power to withdraw from, and disown all churches that depart from the principles of this compact, by becoming heterodox in faith or disorderly in practice. Its principal business shall be to cultivate union and fellowship with all the churches of Christ, and the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom, especially with those united in this Association.

ART. III. Every church in our union shall be entitled to three delegates, and for every twenty-five (or fractional part) over fifty members an additional delegate. Through them shall be transmitted to every annual session of this Association a letter, specifying the names of their messengers, number in fellowship, excommunicated, restored deceased, licensed or ordained to preach the Gospel since last session; also postoffice; Sabbath of meetings; by whom supplied; amount paid pastor, and the amounts contributed for the different benevolent objects fostered by this body, and the number, average and attendance at Sabbath Schools.

ART. IV. New churches may be admitted into our union by messengers bringing petitionary letters. If upon due examination they be found orderly and orthodox, the Moderator shall manifest their admission by giving the messengers the right hand of fellowship.

ART. V. At every session of the Association a Moderator shall be elected by, and of the members present, whose duty it shall be to see that the Rules of Decorum are strictly observed, and to take the voice of the Association on all subjects legally introduced. A clerk shall be elected, whose duty it shall be to keep a correct record of all the proceedings and discharge such other duties as may pertain to his office.

Also a Treasurer shall be elected whose duty it shall be to receive all money belonging to the Association and disburse it as directed by the body, and present annually for insertion in the Minutes a clear and full statement of all receipts and expenditures.

ART. VI. The Association shall furnish the churches with the Minutes of every session in proportion to the Minute Fund sent up by each individual church.

ART. VII. Every query sent by a church must be enclosed in her letter certifying that they have endeavored to solve the same but failed. Nor will it take action on any difficulties between churches unless they have pursued the

directions contained in the 18th chapter of Matthew for settlement of personal difficulties, and have not been able to settle them. In such cases the Association shall take it under consideration, but the voice of the body shall be considered an advisory answer.

ART. VIII. The Association shall have a fund supplied by the voluntary contributions of churches, and all money thus contributed shall be transmitted from the churches by their delegates and paid over to the Committee on Finance. This committee shall be appointed annually, whose duty it shall be to receive in charge the Association fund and pay it over to the Treasurer.

ART. IX. It shall be the duty of the Clerk of this Association to keep a regular file of printed Minutes of every session of this body, and deliver over the same to his successor in office.

ART. X. This Association, when convened, shall be governed by proper Rules of Decorum, which she is authorized to form and amend according to her own views.

ART. XI. This Constitution may be altered or amended at a regular meeting of the Association by a concurring voice of two-thirds of the members.

RULES OF ORDER.

1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.
2. At every annual meeting of the Association, immediately after the delegates' names are enrolled, tellers shall be appointed by the Chair, and the Association shall proceed to choose from among their number a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall hold their office until new ones are chosen.
3. The Moderator shall take the chair every day at the hour to which the Association shall have adjourned on the preceding day; shall call the members to order, and on the appearance of a quorum shall cause the Minutes of the preceding day to be read.
4. He shall preserve order and decorum; may speak to points of order in preference to other members, rising from his seat for that purpose, and shall decide questions of order, subject to an appeal to the Association by any two members, on which appeal no member shall speak more than once, unless by leave of the Association.
5. He shall rise to put a question, but may state it sitting.
6. Questions shall be distinctly put. Those voting in the affirmative shall say *aye*, and those of contrary opinion *no*. If the Moderator doubts or division be called for, the delegates shall divide; those in the affirmative of the question shall first rise from their seats, and afterwards those in the negative.
7. The Moderator shall appoint all committees unless otherwise especially directed by the Association.
8. In all cases of an election the Moderator may vote; on other cases he shall not vote unless the body be equally divided; in that event he shall give the casting vote. He may speak to any question, provided he calls another member to occupy the chair while he is speaking.
9. When any member is about to speak he shall rise from his seat and shall respectfully address the Moderator, and shall confine himself to the question under debate.
10. If any member in speaking or otherwise transgress the rules of the Association, the Moderator shall, or any member may call him to order, in which case the member so called to order shall immediately sit down, unless permitted to explain, and the Association shall, if appealed to, decide on the case, but without debate. If there is no appeal the decision of the chair shall be sub-

mitted to ; if the decision be in favor of the member called to order, he shall be at liberty to proceed ; if otherwise, he shall not proceed without leave of the Association.

11. When two or more members rise at once, the Moderator shall name the member who is first to speak.

12. No member shall speak more than once to the same question without leave of the Association, unless he be the mover, proposer or introducer of the matter pending in the case when he shall be permitted to speak in reply, but not until every member choosing to speak has spoken.

13. Every member who shall be in the house when a question is put shall give his vote, unless the Association, for special reason, excuse him.

14. When a motion is made and seconded, it shall be stated by the chair, or being in writing, it shall be handed to the Moderator and read aloud before debate.

15. Every motion must be reduced to writing if the chair or any member desire it.

16. After a motion is stated by the chair, it shall be deemed to be in the possession of the body, but may be withdrawn by leave of the Association at any time before a decision or amendment.

17. When a question is under debate no motion shall be entertained, but to adjourn, to lie on the table, for the previous question, to postpone to a certain day, to commit, to amend, to postpone indefinitely, which several motions shall have precedence in the order in which they are arranged, and on motion to postpone to a certain day, to commit or to postpone indefinitely being decided, shall again be allowed.

18. Motion to adjourn shall always be in order except the Association be engaged in voting.

19. Motion to lay on the table shall be taken without debate, and shall always be in order except a member be speaking or the body engaged in voting.

20. On previous questions there shall be no debate; all incidental questions of order arising after a motion is made for the previous question, and pending such motion, shall be decided, whether on appeal or otherwise, without debate.

21. The previous question shall be put in this form: " Shall the main question now be put?" It shall only be admitted when demanded by a majority of the members present; its effect shall be to put an end to all debate and bring the Association to a direct vote upon amendments reported by committee, if any, upon pending amendments, and then upon the main question.

22. A motion for reconsideration may be made by any member voting with the majority on the same or succeeding business day, and such motion shall take precedence of all other questions except a motion to adjourn.

23. No member shall absent himself from the house without leave from the Moderator, nor leave the meeting without leave of the Association.

24. Should any member of the Association absent himself before the close of the session without permission from the body, he shall be marked in the Minutes as absent without leave.

TABULAR STATEMENT.

CHURCHES.	POST OFFICES.	CLERKS.	PASTORS.	S. SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS.	Baptized.	Rec'd. by Letter.	Restored.	Excluded.	Dismissed by Letter.	Deceased.	No. of Members.	Average S. S. Attendance.	Sab. of Meeting.	Pastors' Salary.
Claborné	Perdue Hill, Ala.	J. M. Thompson	A. J. Lambert	J. M. Thompson	1	1	9	4	4	4	61	20	3	\$ 100 00
Enon	Perdue Hill, Ala.	Jas. M. Gillespie	A. J. Lambert	J. M. Thompson	2	3				1	22	20	2	55 00
Monroeville	Monroeville, Ala.	John DeLoach	B. J. Skinner	J. W. Leslie						2	62	20	2	138 00
Philadelphia	Kempville, Ala.	J. D. Nettles	B. J. Skinner	J. W. Leslie	15	5				4	110	30	3	150 00
Pleasant Hill	Perdue Hill, Ala.	J. H. Moore	W. A. Locke	M. Whisenant	6	2			14	2	30	21		
Pleasant Ridge	Monroeville, Ala.	J. L. Smith	W. A. Locke	J. B. Chandler	6	1			6	2	70	15		
Poplar Springs	Perdue Hill, Ala.	W. A. House	A. J. Lambert	David DeWise	1	1			1	2	34	10		30 00
Salem	Perdue Hill, Ala.	E. H. Atkinson	W. A. Locke	W. J. Newberry	6	2			9	2	105	25		50 00
Zion	Monroeville, Ala.	C. C. McWilliams	John McWilliams	J. L. Hurry	9	6			5	2	115	25		
Arkadelphia	Bellville, Ala.	A. H. Stokes	John H. Higdon		9	2			3	2	105			
Bellville	Bellville, Ala.	J. Straughn	B. H. Crumpton	W. J. Drunklin	2	1			3	5	90			250 00
Bethany	Burnt Corn, Ala.	John P. Watkins	B. J. Skinner	B. Shirley	2	1			4	2	54	30		
Brownsville	Gravella, Ala.	Z. T. James	George E. Mize		5	4			1		43			
Olive Branch	Gravella, Ala.	J. D. Platt	J. M. Travis		6	6			3	1	52			
Pensacola	Pensacola, Fla.	W. S. Brown	J. E. Bell	M. A. Rabb	3	2			8	1	55			600 00
Pilgrim's Rest	Brewton, Ala.	A. F. Johnson	Jehu Holly		28	2			2	9	30			150 00
Fairfield	Burnt Corn, Ala.	W. H. Andrews	J. A. Bonds	Silas Talbert	6	6			1		98			
Ramah	Burnt Corn, Ala.	T. H. Raines	J. A. Bonds		2	2			1		76			
Hamilton Hill	Claborné, Ala.	C. M. Simmons	B. H. Crumpton	G. R. Farnham	11	14			7	1	15			500 00
Evergreen	Evergreen, Ala.	W. H. Herrington	B. H. Crumpton		3	9			6		112			300 00
Georgiana	Georgiana, Ala.	J. M. Sims	J. A. White		16	1			1		86			75 00
Old Town	Herbert, Ala.	J. A. Murphey	J. F. Bruner	R. M. Gentry	16	2			1		82			100 00
Midway	Riley, Ala.	John Hardee	J. L. Taylor	J. W. Page	3				5		64			5 00
New Prospect	Georgiana, Ala.	H. P. Gamble	J. L. Moseley		4	1			4		44			
Long Branch	Cohasset, Ala.	E. P. Mathews	J. L. Eddins		16	5			1		43			
Bethesda	Nero, Ala.	M. C. Cumbie	Jehu Holly	W. R. Higdon	30	4			1	2	104			
New Hope	Sepulga, Ala.	M. A. Lane	Jehu Holly	J. C. Stuckey	1	1			3		79			
Union	Sepulga, Ala.	M. A. Ray	Jehu Holly		2	5			2	1	63			
Antioch	Bolling, Ala.	J. E. Lang	S. Moore		2	5			2	1	12			
Reulah	Jayvilla, Ala.	I. A. White	I. A. White		1					2	40			75 00
Mars' Hill	Williams' Station, Ala.	J. E. Boon	A. J. Lambert	M. H. Saunders	1					2	52			
Brooklyn	Brooklyn, Ala.	A. T. Thames	I. A. White		1					2	40			
Bethel	Shell, Ala.	G. A. Riley	J. G. McCaskey		2				1	1	40			
Oak Grove	Monroeville, Ala.	M. Stacey	J. L. Eddins		33	8					54			
Totals					221	87	17	27	93	35	2,180	305		

Eleven churches not represented.

NOTE BY THE PUBLISHERS.—The brethren have been so liberal toward us this year in giving us the minutes of so many associations to print, that it has been impossible for us to get them out as promptly as we desired, and as the clerks, no doubt, expected. We were prepared to do a large amount of minute printing, but not so much as we received. We had to purchase an additional supply of type to meet the demand. It reached us too late, however, to enable us to get the minutes out promptly this year. We make this explanation that the blame for delay may rest upon us, and not upon the clerks. We are grateful to the large number of associations that have favored us with their printing, and hope they will all patronize us again next year, when we will be prepared to serve them more promptly.—SELMA PRINTING COMPANY.

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